Welfare of Fruit-Growers in NER

2736. SHRI NABAM REBIA: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have any scheme for the welfare of fruit growers in North Eastern States;

(b) if so, the details thereof, alongwith the funds allocated for the same during the year 2001-2002; and

(c) the step taken or'proposed to be taken by Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI HUKUMDEO NARAYAN YADAV): (a) to (c) The Government is implementing a Centrally Sponsored Scheme on Technology Mission for Integrated Development of Horticulture in the North-Eastern States including Sikkim during the Ninth Plan with effect from 2001-02. An outlay of Rs. 59.75 crores has been allocated during the current year. The Scheme envisages overall development of horticulture including fruits covering research, production programmes, marketing and post harvest management and processing. The fruit growers can avail the benefits of the scheme by way of getting good quality planting material of fruit crops through nurseries, assistance for area expansion, training on latest technologies, marketing of produce at the Wholesale Markets or Rural Primary Markets or Apni Mandis, which are activities of the Scheme.

Increasing the Income of Small Farmers

2737. SHRI BRATIN SENGUPTA: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government propose to draw up a congenial policy, so that small farmers can generate more income and employment in villages;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?